

# BRIEFING NOTE

Agenda Item no. 10

TO: Social Care and Inclusion Scrutiny and Performance Panel  
DATE: 17 September 2013

## Housing21 Services

### Purpose

To notify Scrutiny Panel of the recommendation to the Cabinet on 11 September to go for consultation on changes to the services provided by Housing21.

### Housing21 Services

The Council has a contract with Housing21 that is predominantly for the provision of 5 extra care schemes and one dementia care residential home. This contract also includes the provision of day centre services and a small number of respite care units in each of the extra care schemes.

With the development of personal budgets and the introduction of benefits based charging there has been a significant drop in occupancy levels at all but one of the day centres (Alrewych Court). A large number of people who were using day care one or two days a week were not willing to pay the benefits based charge of over £90 per week and no longer use the service. Day centres have therefore closed on some days and/or staff have been redeployed elsewhere.

Occupancy levels in the respite care units have been lower than they were anticipated to be when the contract was put in place. Each scheme has had two respite flats with a usage over the first two years of between 42% and 47%.

It is therefore proposed that the Council conducts a consultation on decommissioning the day centres that operate in the extra care schemes from the contract and reducing the number of respite care units.

At the same time there is a need for higher staffing levels at night-time in the dementia care residential home. It is proposed that if the outcome of the consultation is to proceed with proposed changes, then some of the savings from the changes in day services and respite care should be used to fund additional night-time staffing levels in the residential care home. The day service in the residential home will continue.

### Consultation

A communication and consultation plan has been developed to ensure clear and consistent messages are delivered for everyone affected by these changes in a timely manner enabling them to understand the proposals and share their views. This will include all those service users who are currently attending day services at the Housing21 extra care schemes or using the respite care units, together with their families as appropriate, and Housing21 staff affected by the changes.



Those affected will be able to share their views on the policy proposals through a variety of mediums, including by phone, letter, email, the councils website and face to face consultation meetings. A report will be produced sharing the outcome of the consultation and will be shared with everyone concerned.

## **Conclusion**

The outcome of the consultation will be reported to the Council Cabinet in January 2014.

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